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SIPDIS  
DEPT FOR CA/FPP, DS/ICI/CR  
POSTS FOR FRAUD PREVENTION MANAGERS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [CVIS](#) [KFRD](#) [AR](#)  
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: B-REFERRAL VALIDATION STUDY

REF: 04 STATE 172283

¶1. SUMMARY: In September 2009 the Fraud Prevention Unit (FPU) conducted a validation study of all B-referral visa applicants issued in FY2007 and FY2008, and found the illegal overstay rate to be 0.09 percent, with only one of the 1,072 applicants overstaying. The low overstay rate shows that the pool of applicants referred by the Embassy sections appear to be well-qualified. END SUMMARY.

¶2. Methodology and Definitions: To prepare the B-referrals sample, FPU exported data on all B-referral issuances during FY2007 and FY2008 from the Consular Consolidated Database (CCD) into an Excel spreadsheet file. FPU sent the total sample to CA/FPP for a batch check against the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Arrival and Departure Information System (ADIS) database. DHS provided the entry, exit and any change of status information for each applicant.

¶3. CA/FPP returned the results of the data query to FPU, including the results from the Automated Targeting System (ATS) I-94 check, which has a separate repository for exit data. According to CA/FPP's definitions, issuances with corresponding ADIS entry and departure records, without overstays, including those with DHS extensions of stay, are considered good return travelers. While not definitive proof, the absence of a departure record in ADIS is seen as an indicator that a person may have overstayed their visa. After narrowing down the information received in both the ADIS and ATS spreadsheets, FPU found only 14 unconfirmed overstay cases. FPU contacted each person by phone, and found that only one applicant remained in the U.S. and is, according to her brother, currently working there.

¶4. COMMENT: This validation study confirmed a steady trend of good travel by B-referrals over the past several years; a similar validation study of nearly 800 B-referrals in FY2006 also revealed only one overstay. Embassy B- referrals appear to be highly qualified applicants. ADIS results showed that 99 percent of the applicants have traveled several times to the U.S. after their visas were issued at Post. END COMMENT.

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